

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Amendments proposed by House Committee on Education to Original House Bill No. 568
by Representative Hutter

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, line 2, after "17:3129.9" and before "relative" delete the comma "," and insert "through 3129.15,"

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 1, delete lines 3 through 6 in their entirety and insert the following:

"for a comprehensive system of articulation and transfer of credit between and among public educational institutions; to provide for the creation of a statewide articulation and transfer council and its membership, powers, and duties; to provide for a statewide articulation agreement; to provide for a common core curriculum; to provide relative to the length of degree programs; to provide for the transfer of specified courses and associate degrees; to provide relative to admission of transfer students to four-year colleges and universities; to provide for implementation timelines; to provide for reporting requirements; to provide for program rules; to provide for effectiveness; and to provide for related matters."

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 1, line 8, after "R.S. 17:3129.9" and before "hereby" change "is" to "through 3129.15 are"

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 1, line 9, after "§3129.9." delete the remainder of the line and delete lines 10 through 18 and delete page 2 in its entirety and insert the following:

"Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council; creation; purpose; membership; duties and responsibilities

A. The commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the higher education management boards and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, shall establish a Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council, hereafter in this Section referred to as the council, that shall report to the commissioner of higher education.

B. The council shall consist of members representing each four-year college and university system, the community and technical college system, public elementary and secondary education, and nonpublic education. Council membership shall provide for equitable representation of all educational institutions and levels. The commissioner of higher education shall appoint a chair from among the membership.

C. The council shall:

(1) Coordinate, oversee, and monitor the seamless articulation and transfer of credits between and among secondary schools, technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities.

(2) Develop guidelines for interinstitutional agreements between and among public schools, technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities to facilitate interaction, articulation, acceleration, and the efficient use of faculty, equipment, and facilities.

(3) Develop a statewide articulation and transfer agreement to govern the transfer of credits between and among educational institutions at all levels.

(4) Oversee the development of a statewide core curriculum for lower-division course work that will be fully accepted in its entirety and creditable to the baccalaureate degree by all four-year colleges and universities. Such curriculum shall be comprised of specified general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.

(5) Establish committees or advisory groups composed of secondary and postsecondary faculty members to determine course comparability and to facilitate articulation in subject areas.

(6) Approve common degree program prerequisites across program areas and course and credit-by-exam equivalencies and establish passing scores and course and credit equivalencies for exams administered pursuant to accelerated programs such as the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination Program.

(7) Establish monitoring, compliance, and reporting systems based upon uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with statewide articulation policies. Data collected shall include:

(a) The number of students enrolled in associate degree transfer programs.

(b) Each student's rate of progress through transfer programs.

(c) The number and percentage of students who complete associate degree transfer programs.

(d) The number of students earning associate degrees that transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

(e) The number of credits earned, degrees awarded, and time to completion of degree for students who have transferred associate degrees.

(8) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

(9) Periodically, but at least annually, review articulation and transfer policies and make recommendations to the commissioner of higher education who shall then make recommendations to the legislature for needed revisions.

§3129.10. Statewide Articulation and Transfer Agreement

A. The Board of Regents and the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall enter into a statewide articulation agreement that shall govern the articulation and transfer of credit between and among the state's public secondary and postsecondary educational institutions.

B. The statewide articulation agreement shall, at a minimum:

(1) Guarantee the transfer of general education courses and common degree program prerequisites.

(2) Guarantee that every associate of arts and associate of science degree graduate of a community college shall be deemed to have met all general education and other core curriculum requirements and must be granted admission to the upper division of any state public four-year college or university, except to a limited access program or a program that has audition or other specialized admission requirements, as approved by the Board of Regents.

(3) Provide that associate of arts and associate of science degree graduates who transfer to a four-year college or university shall not be required to take any additional general education courses to fulfill baccalaureate degree requirements.

(4) Guarantee the statewide articulation of appropriate career and technical education programs and workforce development programs and transfer of course credits between secondary schools and technical and community colleges.

(5) Provide for acceptance by postsecondary educational institutions of credits earned in accelerated programs such as dual enrollment and the Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and College-Level Examination programs.

(6) Guarantee the transfer of equivalent courses.

1 §3129.11. Common core curriculum; general education courses; common
 2 prerequisites; other degree requirements

3 A. The Board of Regents shall identify the degree programs offered by
 4 public colleges and universities and the postsecondary career and technical education
 5 programs offered by community colleges, technical colleges, and city, parish, and
 6 other local public school boards.

7 B. The board shall identify those courses that meet general education
 8 requirements within each major area of study. All public postsecondary educational
 9 institutions shall accept such general education courses.

10 C. The board shall identify all courses offered by colleges and universities
 11 and accepted for credit toward a degree and identify them as either general education
 12 or required as a prerequisite for a degree.

13 D.(1) The board shall identify common degree program prerequisite courses
 14 and course substitutions for degree programs across all postsecondary education
 15 institutions. Common degree program prerequisites shall be offered and accepted by
 16 all postsecondary institutions, except in cases approved by the Board of Regents.

17 (2) The board shall develop a centralized database containing the list of
 18 courses and course substitutions that meet the prerequisite requirements for each
 19 postsecondary certificate, industry-based certification, and associate and
 20 baccalaureate degree program.

21 E. The postsecondary education management boards shall identify their core
 22 curricula. The public technical colleges, community colleges, and four-year colleges
 23 and universities shall work with the State Board of Elementary and Secondary
 24 Education and public schools and school districts to assure that high school curricula
 25 coordinate with the core curricula and to prepare students for postsecondary study.

26 F. The core curricula for associate in arts and associate in science degree
 27 programs shall be approved and adopted by the Board of Regents.

28 G.(1) The Board of Regents shall determine and establish a standard number
 29 of credits required to complete each baccalaureate degree program and shall establish
 30 a standard number of credits required to earn associate degree programs for transfer
 31 to a four-year college or university.

32 (2) A baccalaureate degree program shall not require more than the number
 33 of credits established by the board for degree completion without approval from the
 34 board.

35 (3) An associate in arts and an associate in science degree shall require no
 36 more than sixty semester hours of college credit, including thirty-six hours of general
 37 education coursework.

38 H. The commissioner of higher education shall appoint faculty committees
 39 representing community and technical colleges and public high school faculties to
 40 recommend criteria, including a standard program length, for each postsecondary
 41 career certificate program, diploma, and degree offered by a technical college or a
 42 community college.

43 §3129.12. Student guidance and counseling

44 The Board of Regents shall develop and maintain a comprehensive, web-
 45 based system to provide information to students, advisers, and faculty regarding
 46 statewide articulation and transfer policies and requirements.

47 §3129.13. Implementation and funding

48 A. The Board of Regents shall appoint the members of the Statewide
 49 Articulation and Transfer Council not later than August 1, 2009.

50 B. The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council shall hold an
 51 organizational meeting not later than September 1, 2009.

52 C. The statewide articulation agreement shall be developed and adopted not
 53 later than March 1, 2010.

54 D. Full articulation and transfer of the associate of arts and associate of
 55 science degrees shall be implemented for the 2010-2011 academic year.

56 E. The Board of Regents shall ensure that sufficient funding is made
 57 available to implement the provisions of R.S. 17:3129.9 et seq. and may utilize state

appropriations, federal funds, funds made available through other sources, or funds realized through realignment of other programs administered by the board.

§3129.14. Reporting

Beginning in 2010, the Board of Regents shall submit a written report to the Senate and House committees on education, not later than January thirty-first and July thirty-first of each year, on the status of statewide articulation and transfer of credit across all educational institutions in Louisiana as provided in R.S. 17:3129.9 et seq.

§3129.15. Rules

The Board of Regents shall adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of R.S. 17:3129.9 et seq. in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

Section 2. This Act shall become effective upon signature by the governor or, if not signed by the governor, upon expiration of the time for bills to become law without signature by the governor, as provided by Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana. If vetoed by the governor and subsequently approved by the legislature, this Act shall become effective on the day following such approval."